



# SAHASRAMALLA

TRICKSTER AND THIEF – A JAIN TALE

Vol 782







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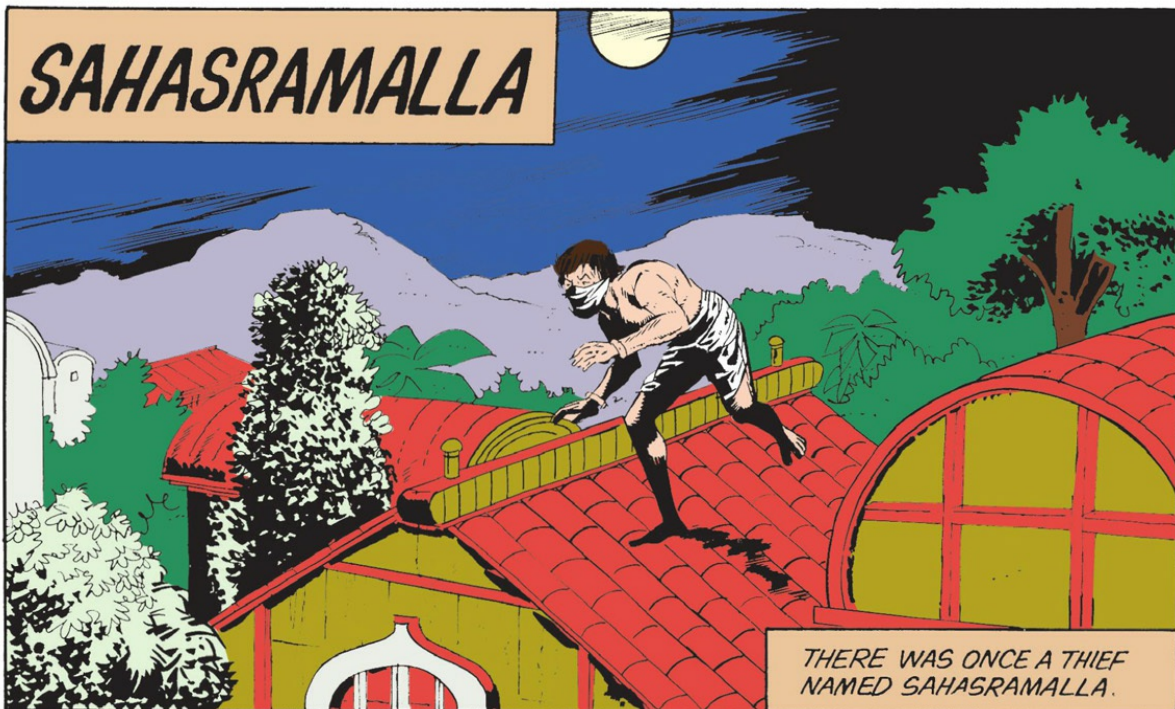
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# SAHASRAMALLA



THERE WAS ONCE A THIEF NAMED SAHASRAMALLA.

ONE NIGHT HE TRIED TO BREAK INTO A JEWELLER'S SHOP.



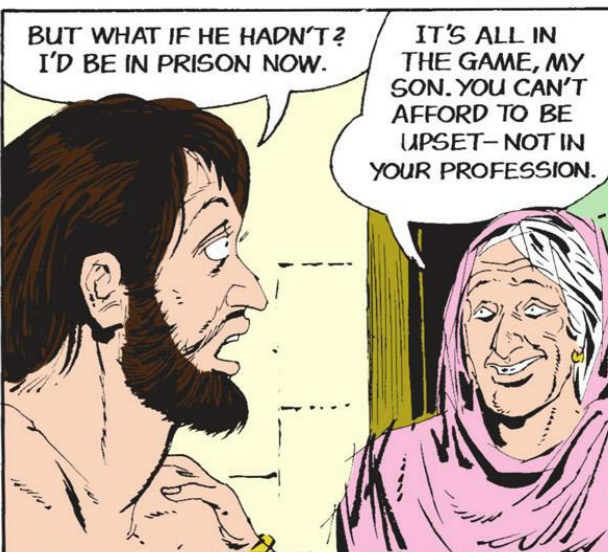
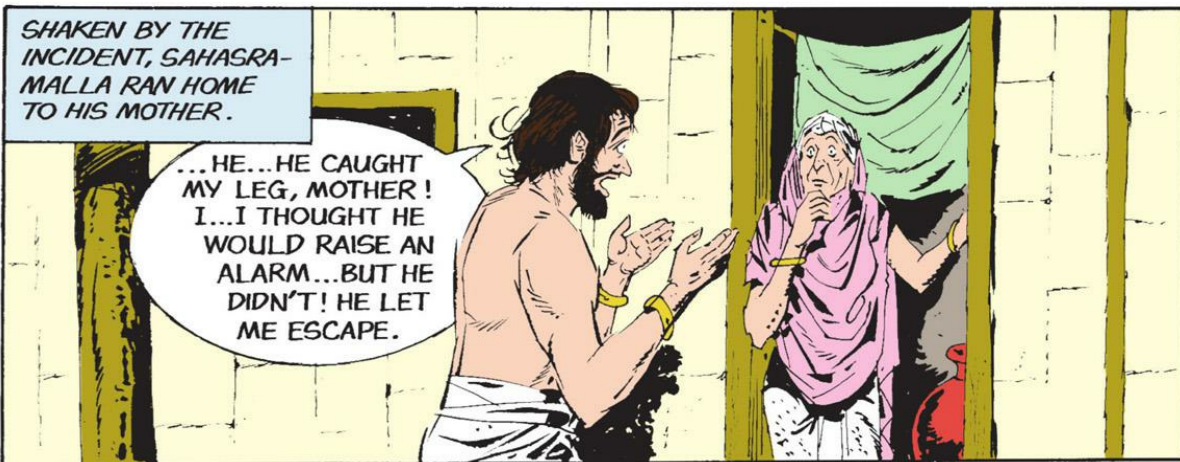
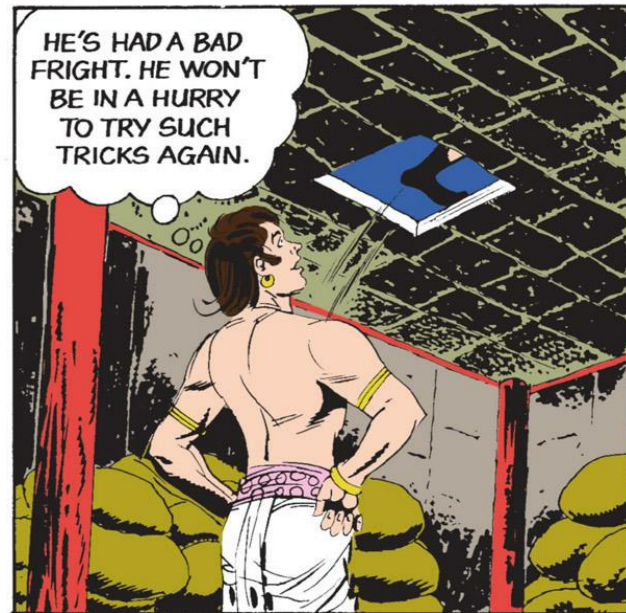
BUT AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE JEWELLER'S SON WAS SLEEPING INSIDE



GOT YOU!

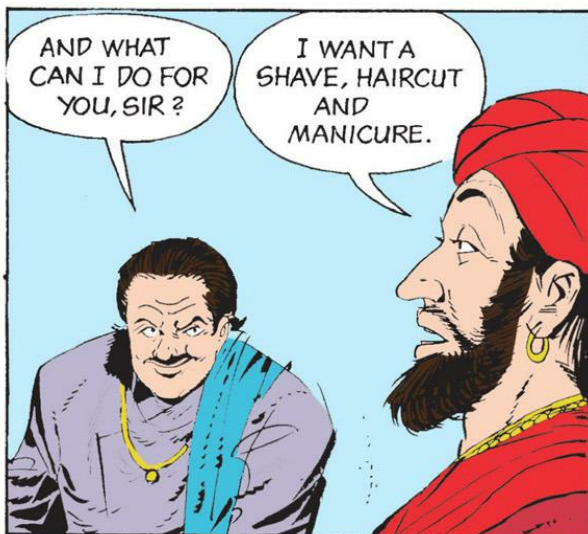




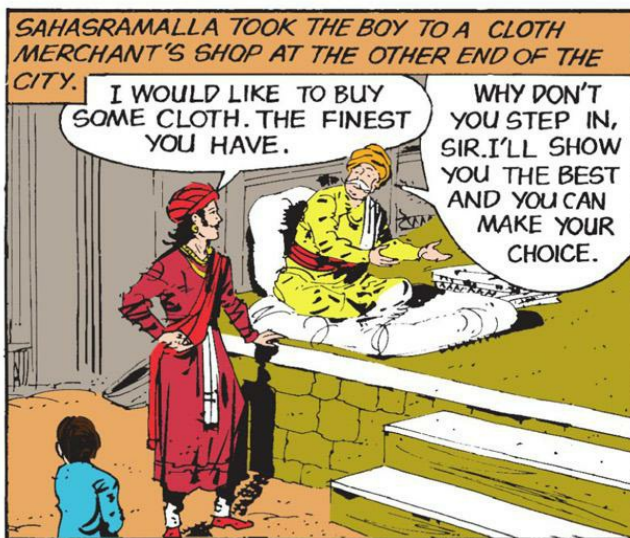




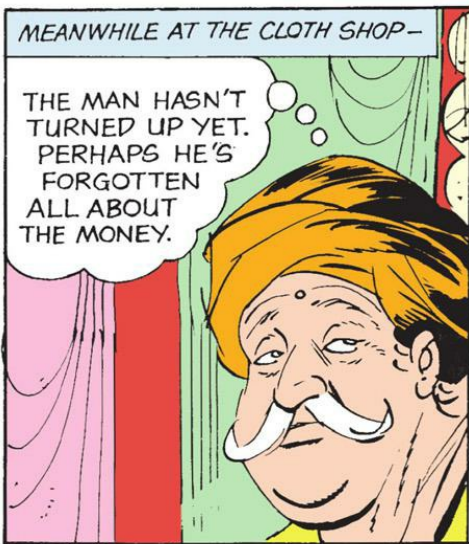
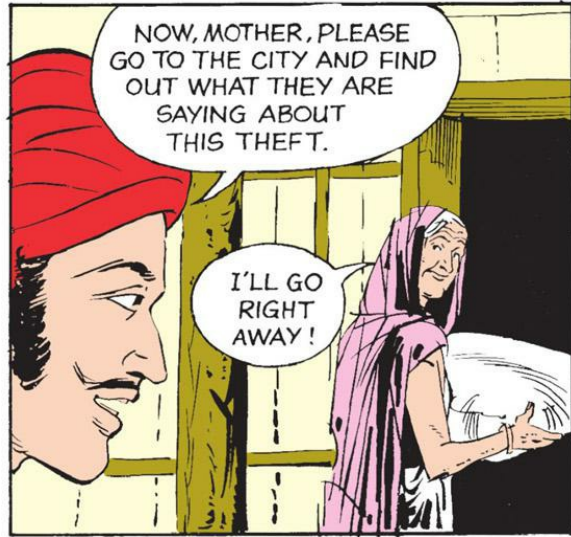
HEARTENED BY HIS MOTHER'S WORDS, EARLY ONE MORNING, SAHASRAMALLA WALKED DOWN TO A BARBER'S SHOP.



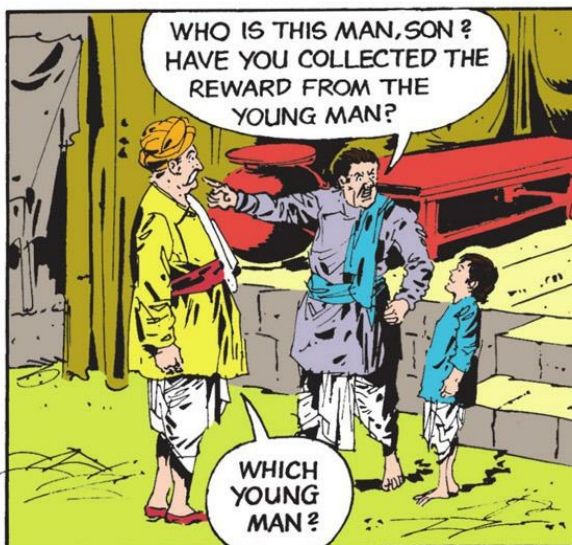




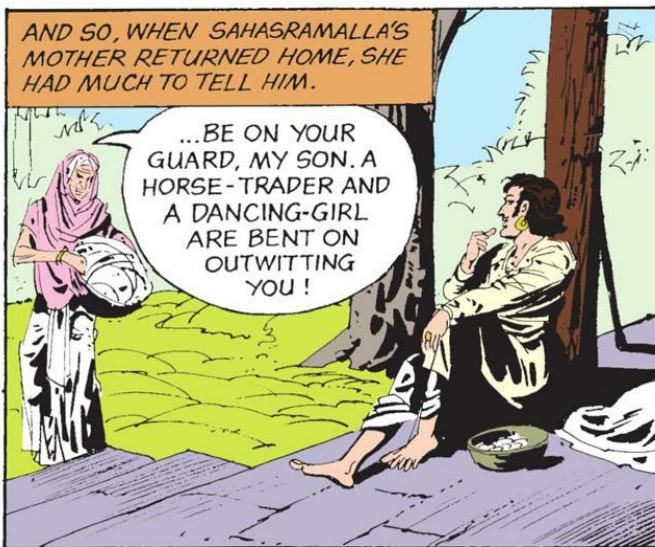
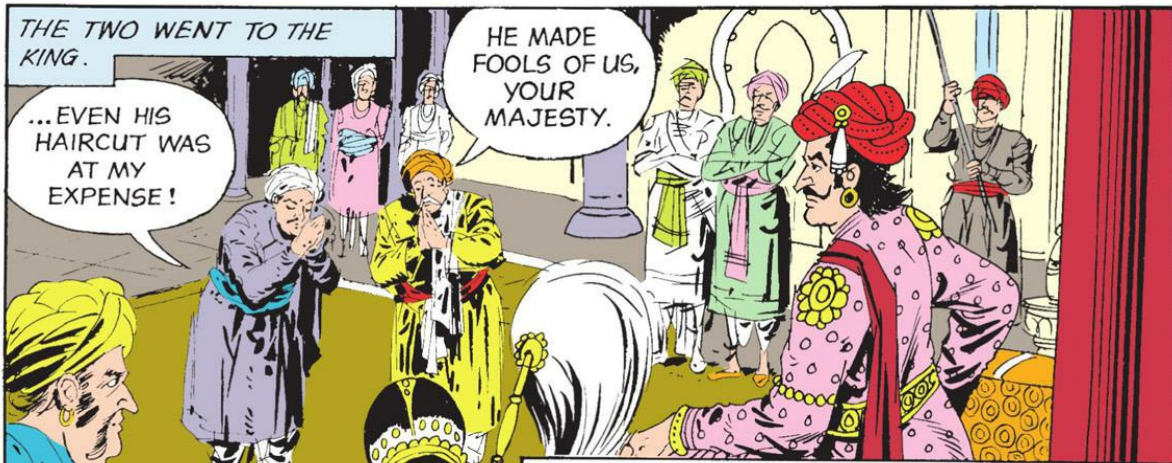










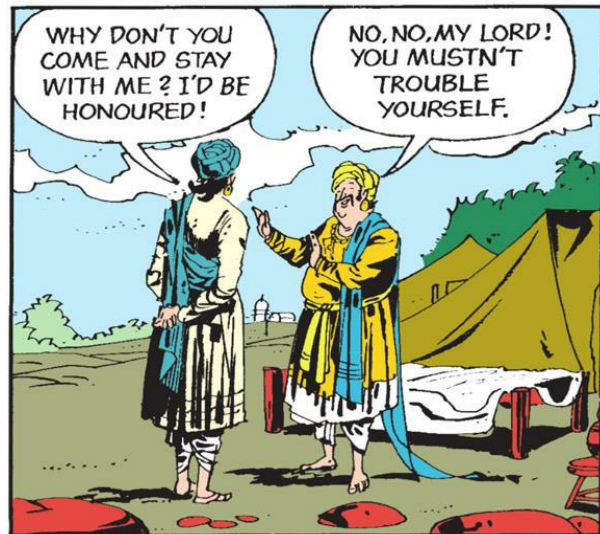




THAT EVENING AS THE HORSE-TRADER, WHO HAD SET UP CAMP OUTSIDE THE CITY, WAS RELAXING OUTSIDE HIS TENT—



...SAHASRAMALLA HIMSELF!





SAHASRAMALLA THEN TOOK THE MAN TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCING-GIRL.



THE DANCING-GIRL HAD NEVER SEEN THE HORSE-TRADER OR THE THIEF BEFORE.

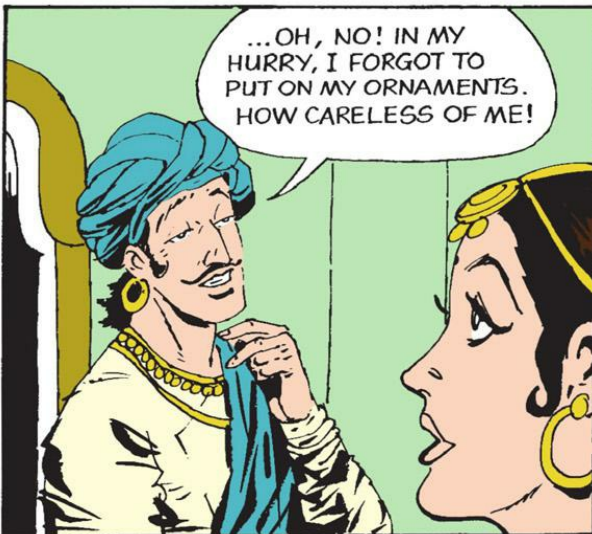


SAHASRAMALLA QUICKLY TOOK HER ASIDE.





THE WOMAN SHOWED THE HORSE-TRADER TO HIS ROOM, AND CAME BACK.

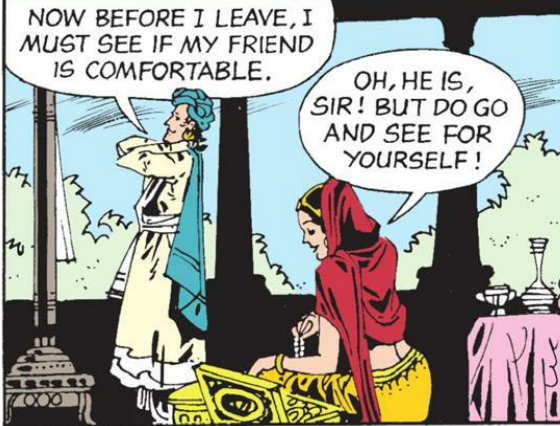




SAHASRAMALLA SELECTED THE MOST PRECIOUS ORNAMENTS IN THE WOMAN'S POSSESSION AND PUT THEM ON.

NOW BEFORE I LEAVE, I MUST SEE IF MY FRIEND IS COMFORTABLE.

OH, HE IS, SIR! BUT DO GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!



THE HORSE-TRADER HAD NO WORDS TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE WHEN SAHASRAMALLA ENTERED HIS ROOM.

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SUCH A MAGNIFICENT ROOM, SIR. I AM SIMPLY OVERWHELMED BY YOUR GENEROSITY!

OH, IT'S NOTHING.



MY LADY WILL LOOK AFTER YOU WHILE I AM GONE. NOW I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU.

GO AHEAD.



I NEED A FAST HORSE TO TAKE ME TO THE PALACE.

TAKE MINE, SIR. TAKE MINE! HE IS THE FASTEST IN THE COUNTRY.

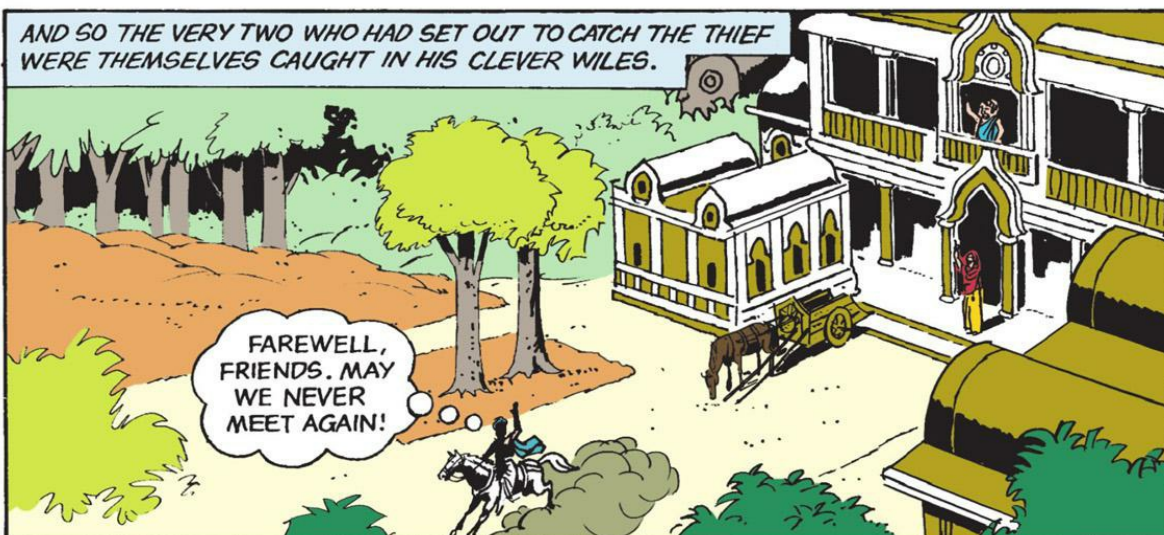


IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR YOU AFTER ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME.

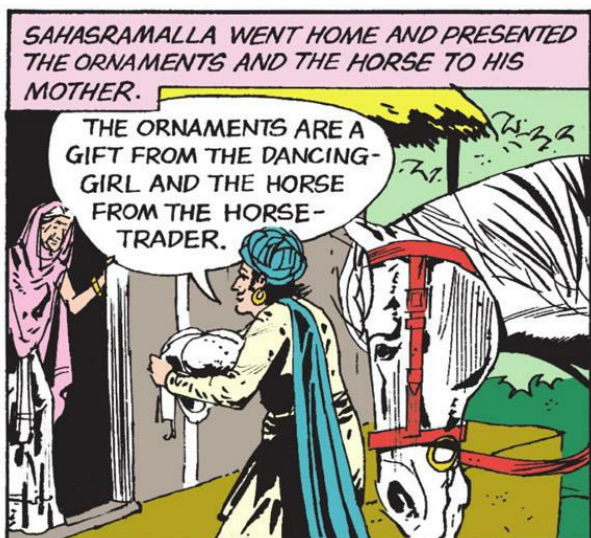




AND SO THE VERY TWO WHO HAD SET OUT TO CATCH THE THIEF WERE THEMSELVES CAUGHT IN HIS CLEVER WILES.



SAHASRAMALLA WENT HOME AND PRESENTED THE ORNAMENTS AND THE HORSE TO HIS MOTHER.



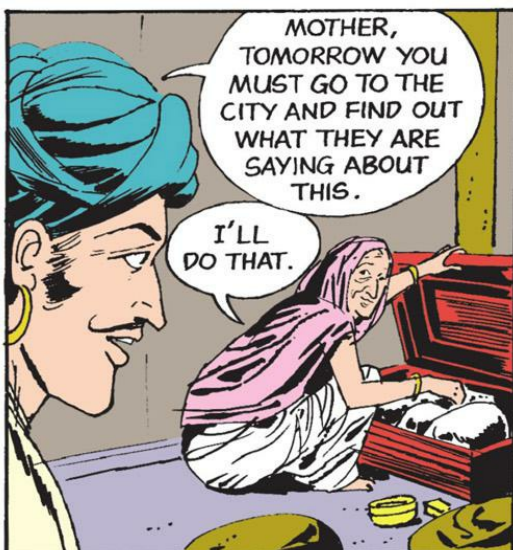
ALL FOR YOU, MOTHER.

I AM PROUD OF YOU, SON.

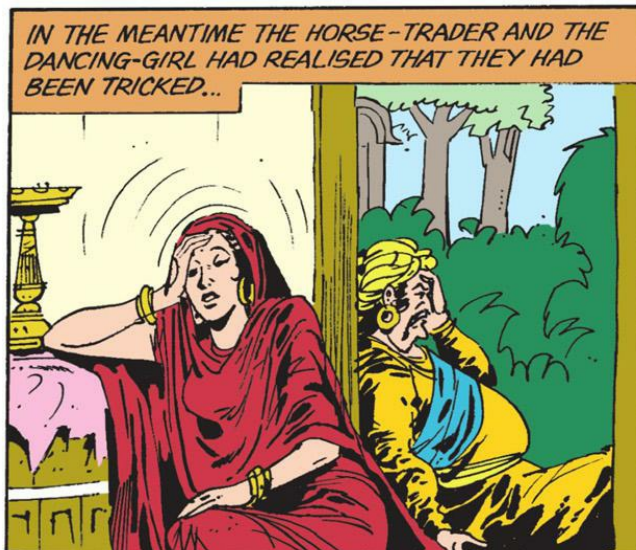


MOTHER, TOMORROW YOU MUST GO TO THE CITY AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS.

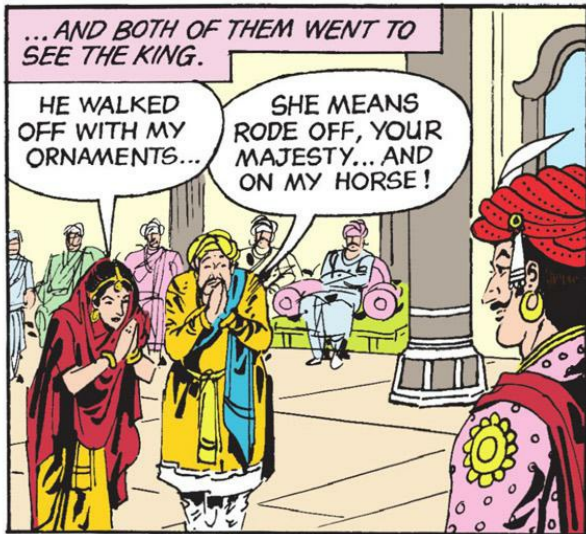
I'LL DO THAT.



IN THE MEANTIME THE HORSE-TRADER AND THE DANCING-GIRL HAD REALISED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TRICKED...







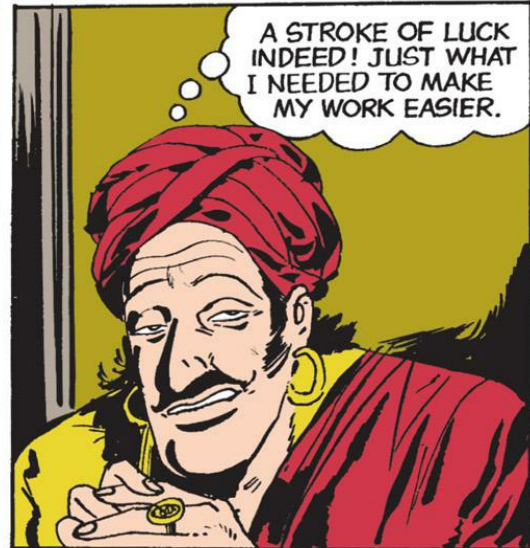




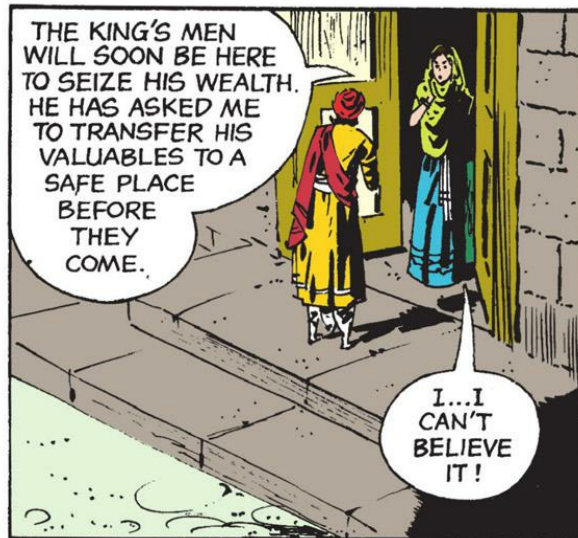
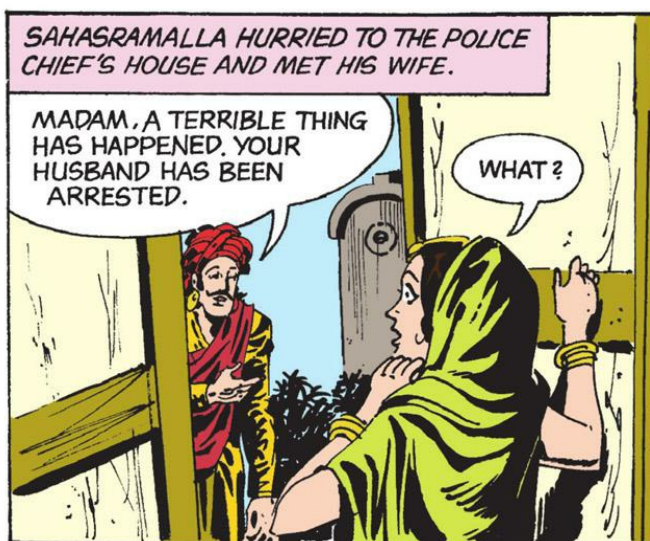
SAHASRAMALLA WAS A SKILFUL GAMBLER AND IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE CHIEF OF POLICE LOST ALL HIS MONEY TO HIM.



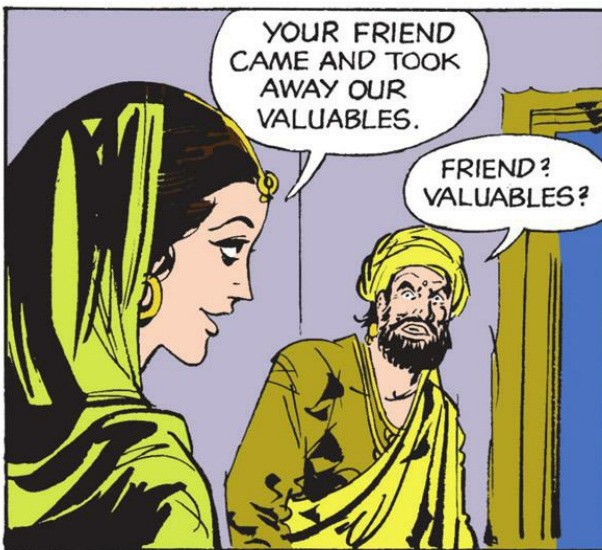
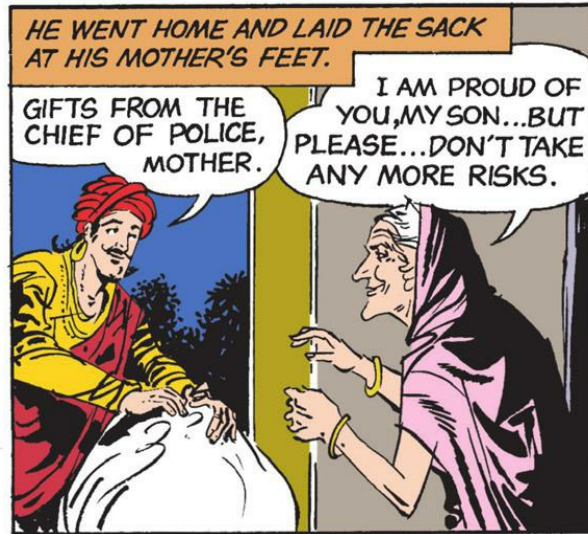
BUT THE UNLUCKY OFFICIAL LOST HIS RING TOO. JUST THEN—













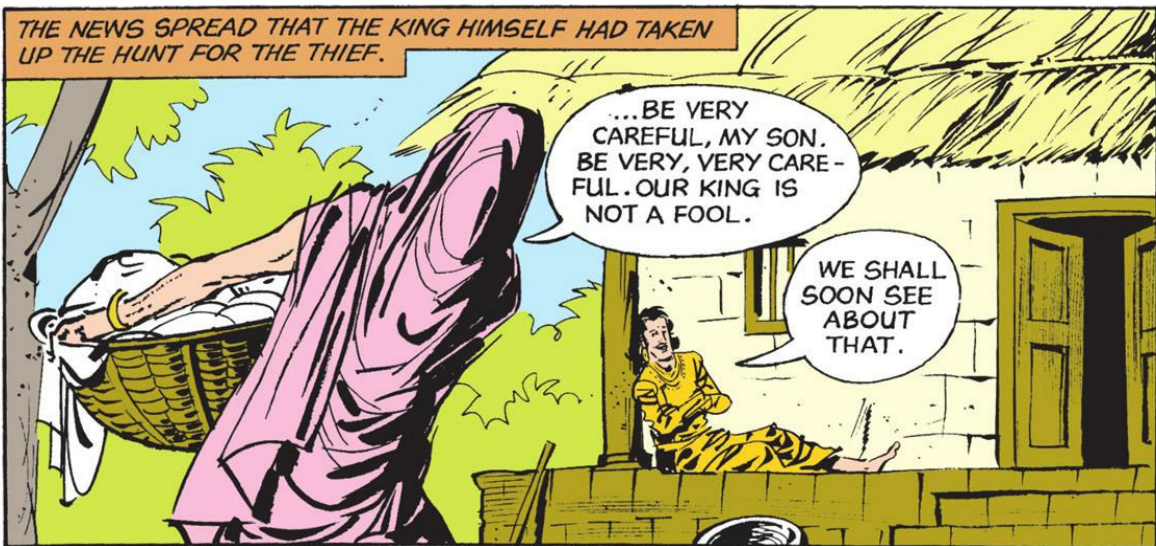
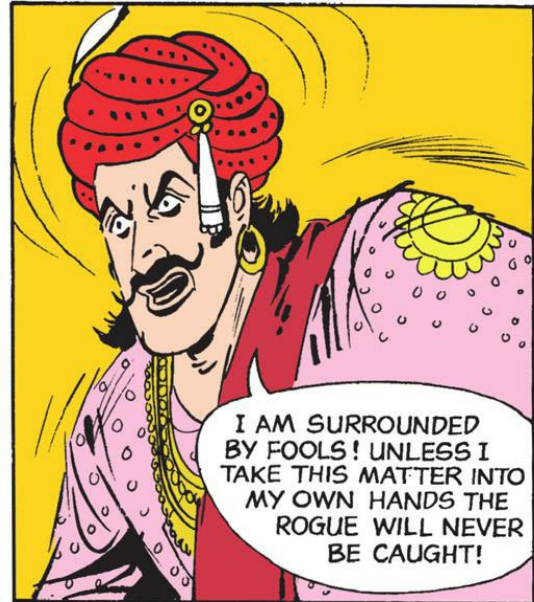
WHEN HIS WIFE TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THE POLICE CHIEF BECAME DEATHLY PALE. HIS MOUTH OPENED AND SHUT BUT NO SOUND CAME FROM IT.



THE HELPLESS POLICE CHIEF WENT TO THE PALACE NEXT DAY AND THREW HIMSELF AT THE KING'S FEET.





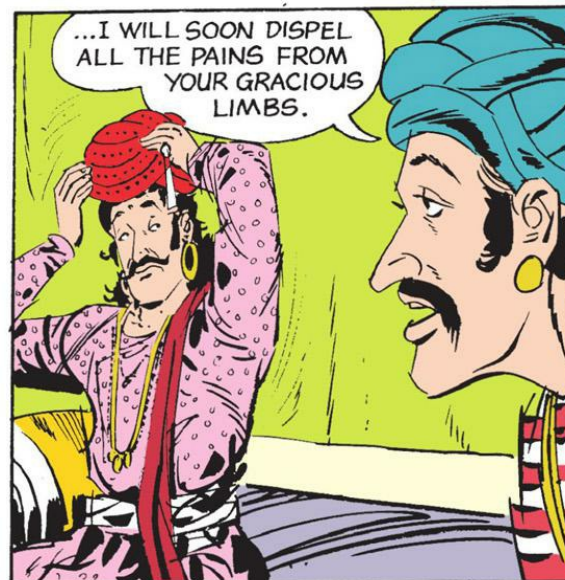
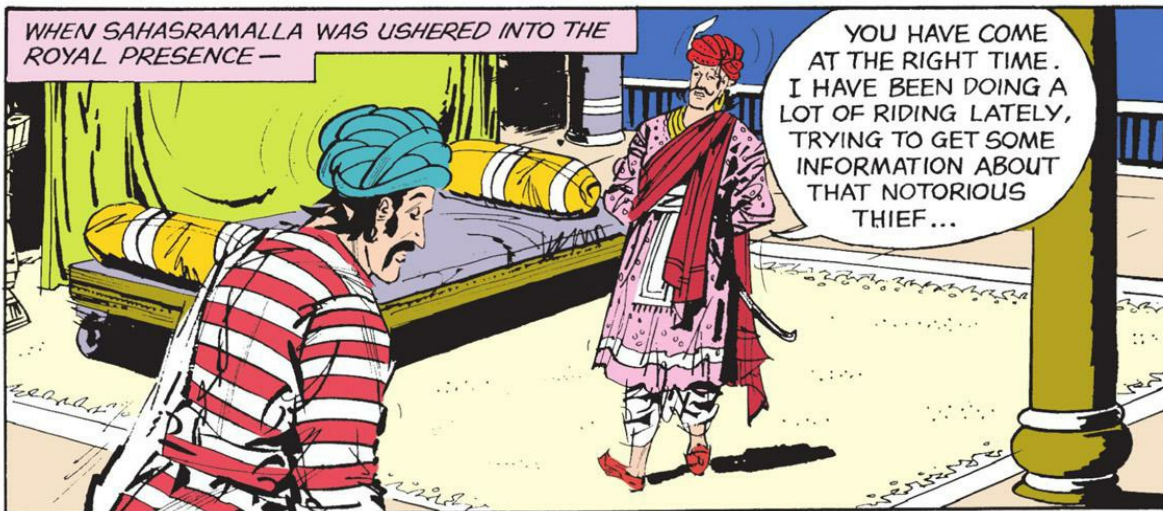




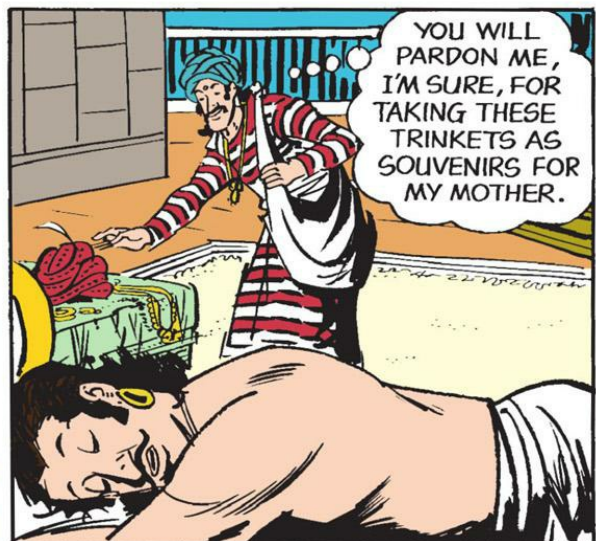
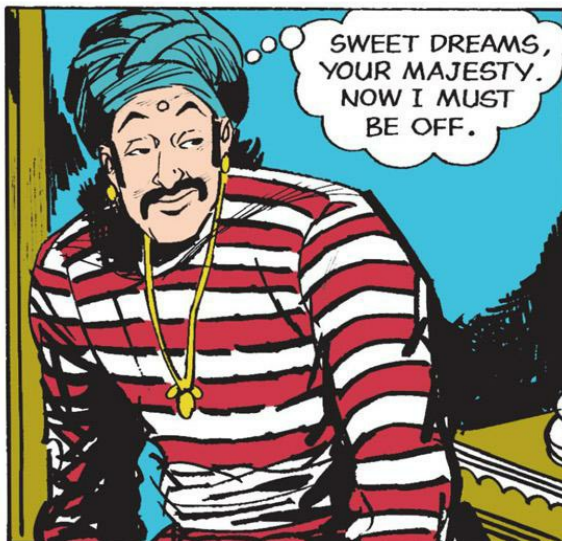
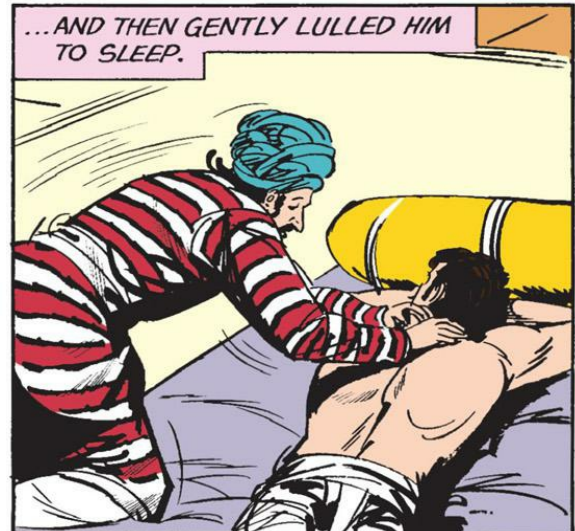
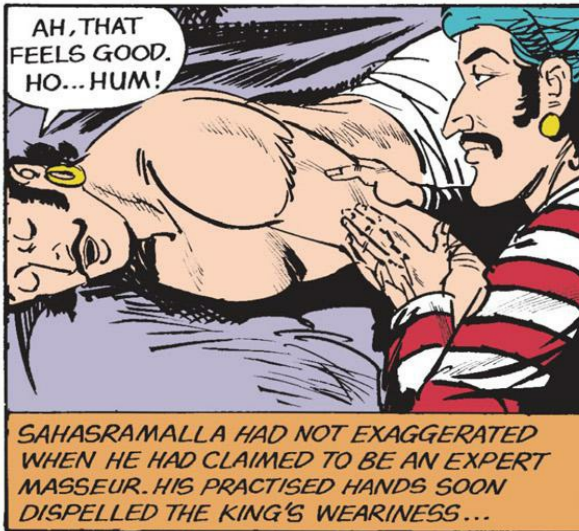
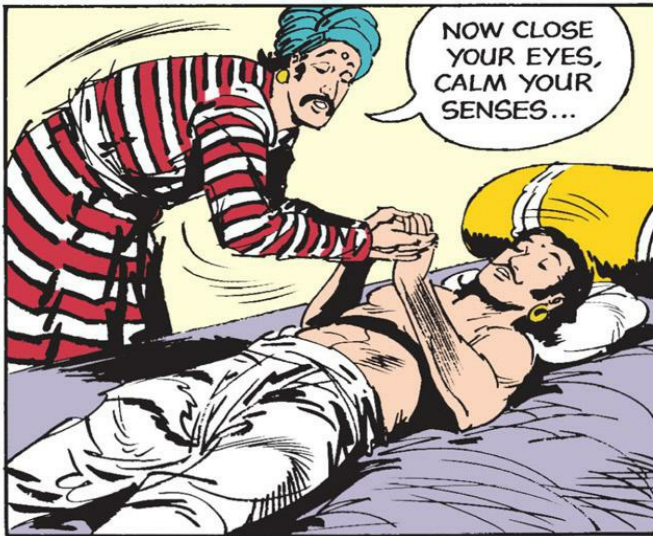
SOME DAYS LATER, THE THIEF PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE PALACE GATES.



WHEN SAHASRAMALLA WAS USHERED INTO THE ROYAL PRESENCE—





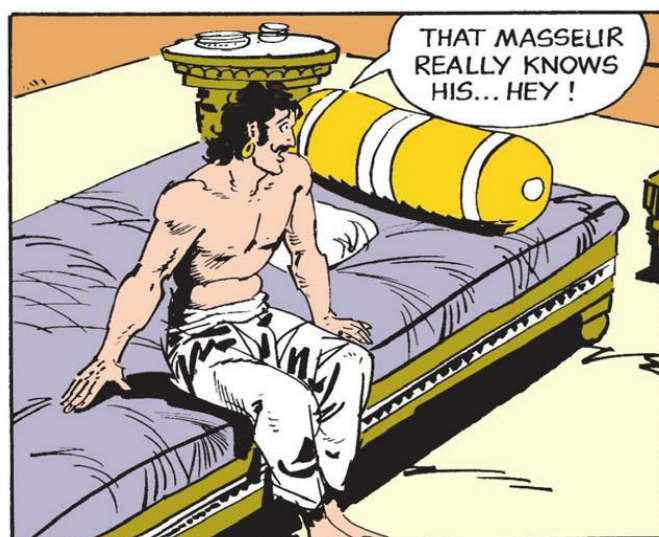




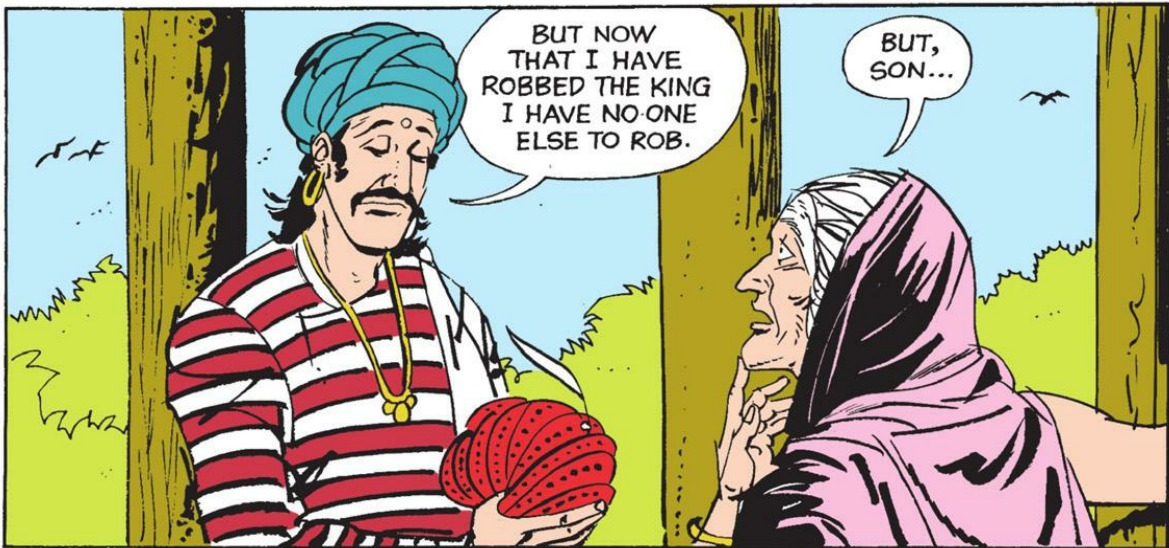
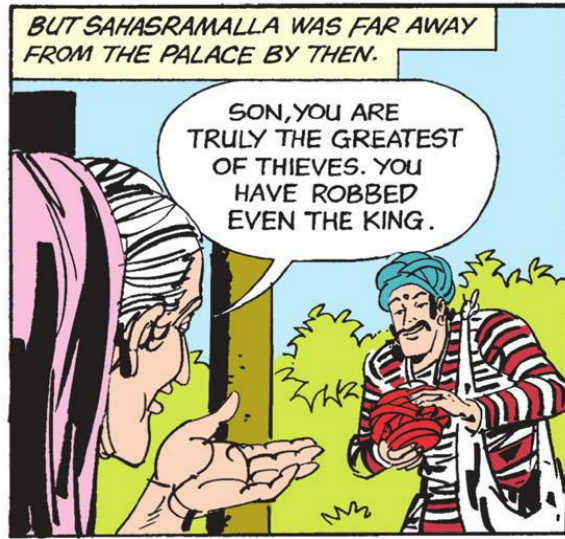
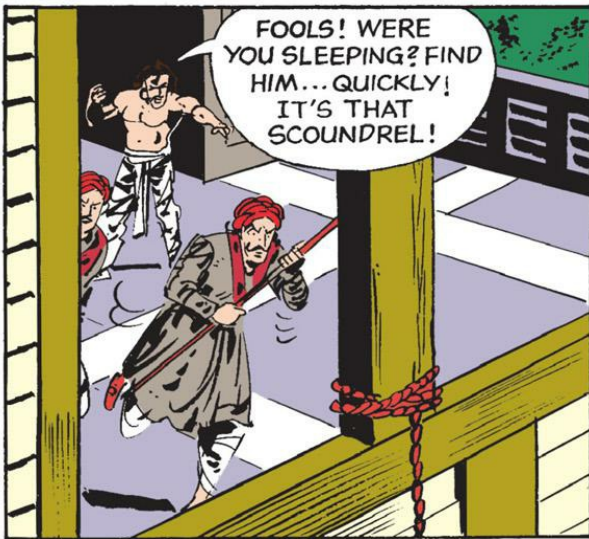
HE WRAPPED UP THE CROWN AND THE JEWELLERY IN THE ROYAL ROBES AND NOISELESSLY LET HIMSELF OUT OF THE WINDOW.



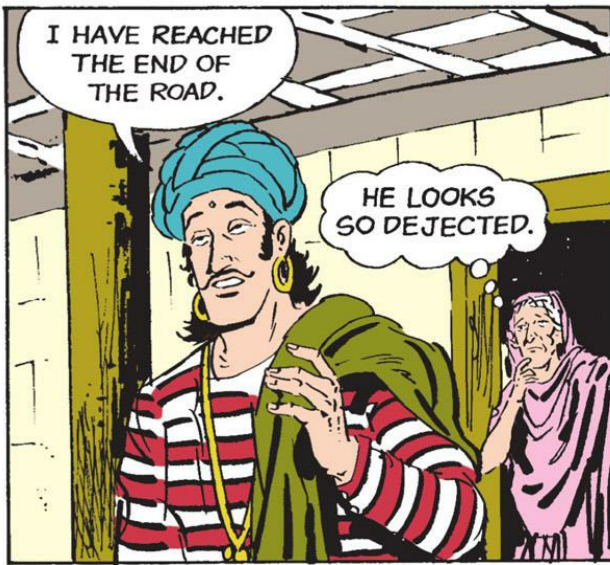
SOME TIME LATER, THE KING AWOKE.



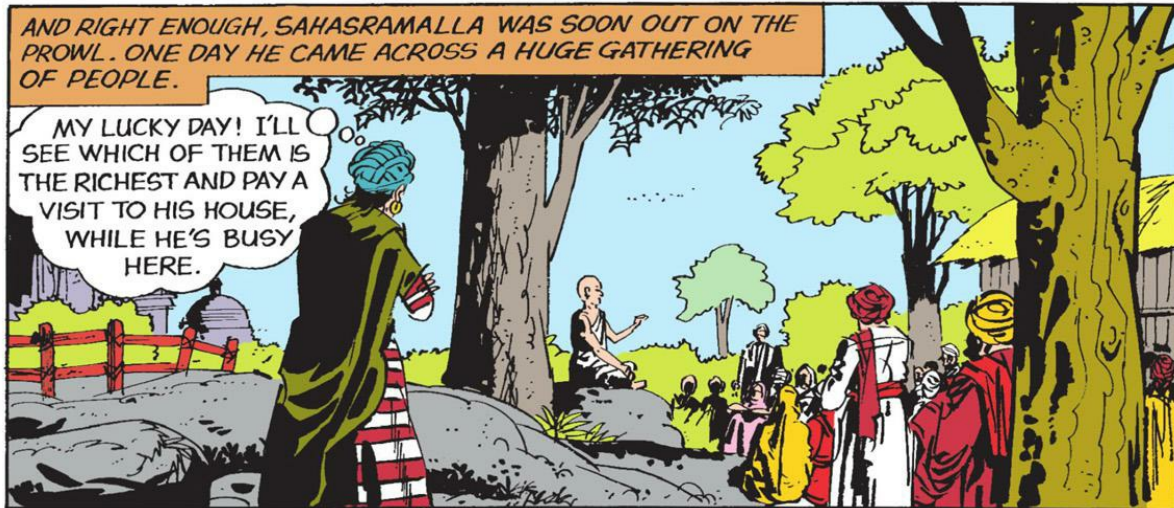








AND RIGHT ENOUGH, SAHASRAMALLA WAS SOON OUT ON THE PROWL. ONE DAY HE CAME ACROSS A HUGE GATHERING OF PEOPLE.

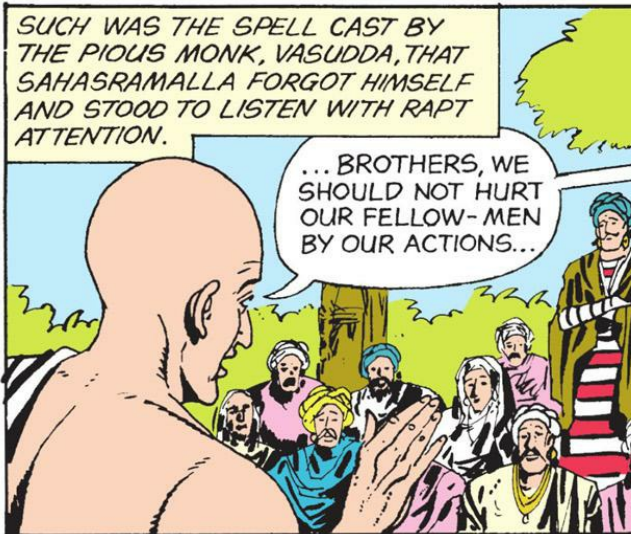


JUST AS SAHASRAMALLA SLIPPED INTO THE CROWD, THE MONK BEGAN TO PREACH.

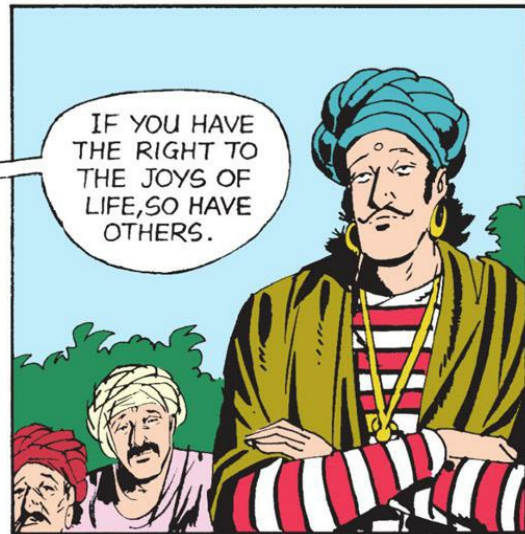




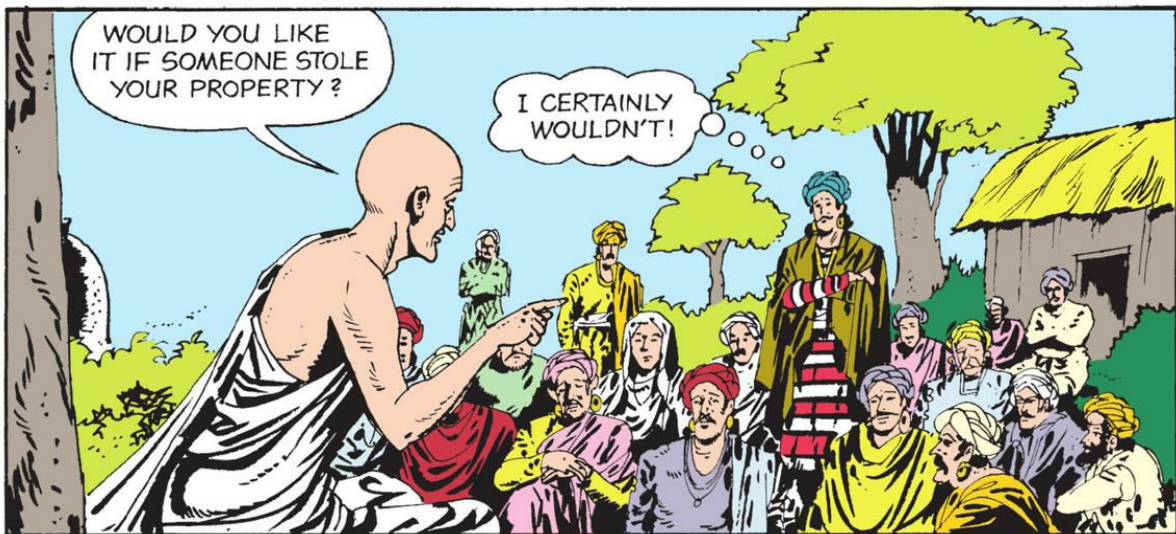
SUCH WAS THE SPELL CAST BY THE PIOUS MONK, VASUDDA, THAT SAHASRAMALLA FORGOT HIMSELF AND STOOD TO LISTEN WITH RAPT ATTENTION.



... BROTHERS, WE SHOULD NOT HURT OUR FELLOW-MEN BY OUR ACTIONS...



IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE JOYS OF LIFE, SO HAVE OTHERS.



WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF SOMEONE STOLE YOUR PROPERTY?

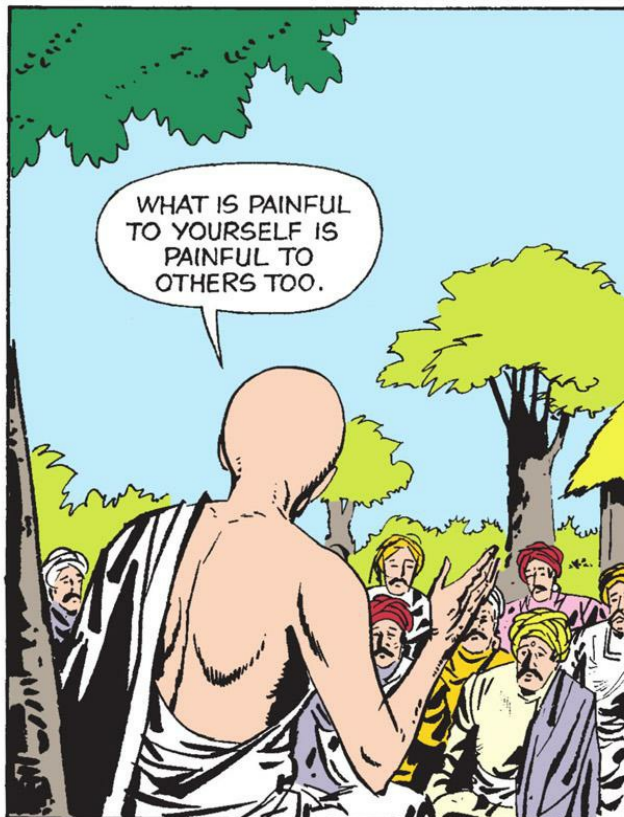
I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T!



THEN SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT STEAL SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY.

!



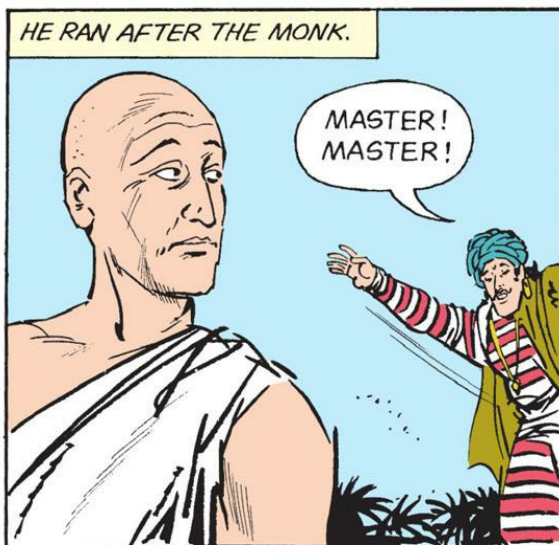
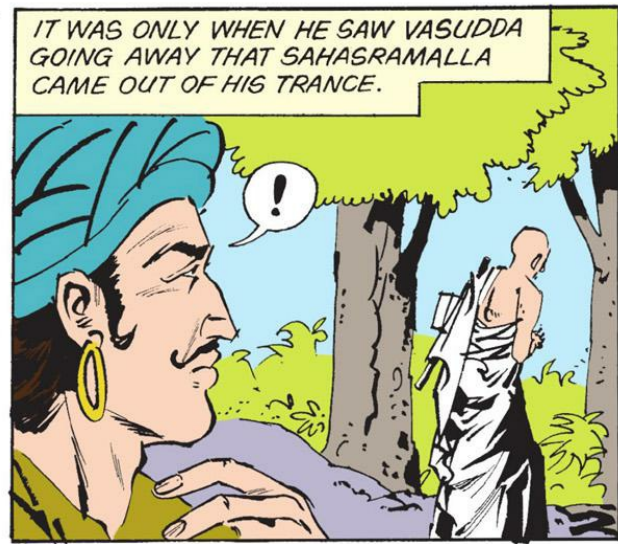
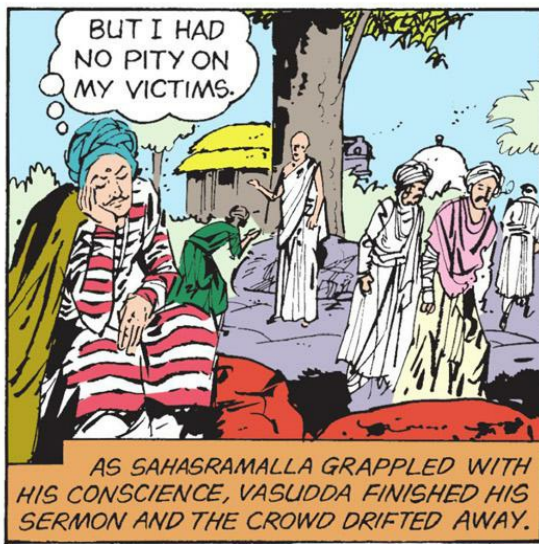
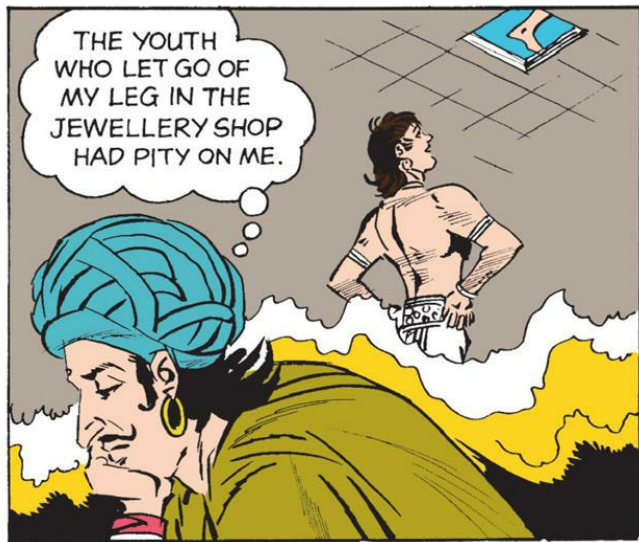




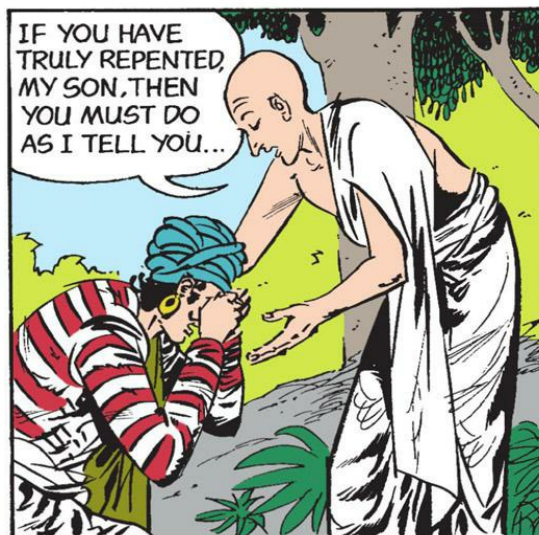
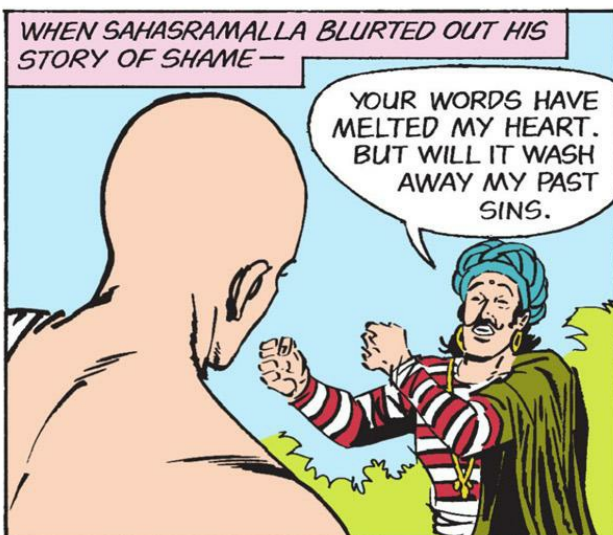
SAHASRAMALLA WHO HAD NEVER GIVEN THOUGHT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS WAS NOW FLOODED WITH FEELINGS OF REMORSE.









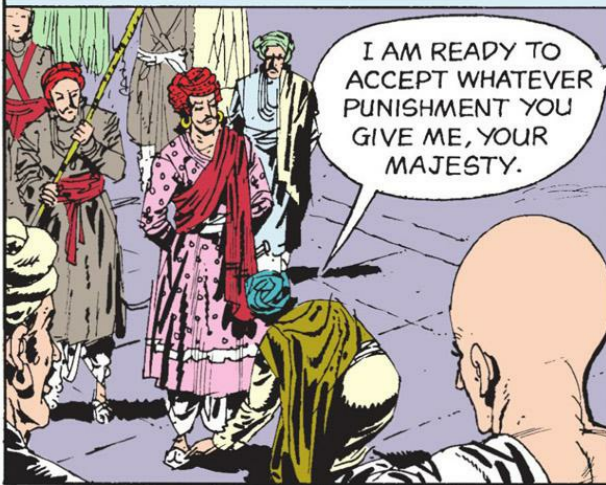








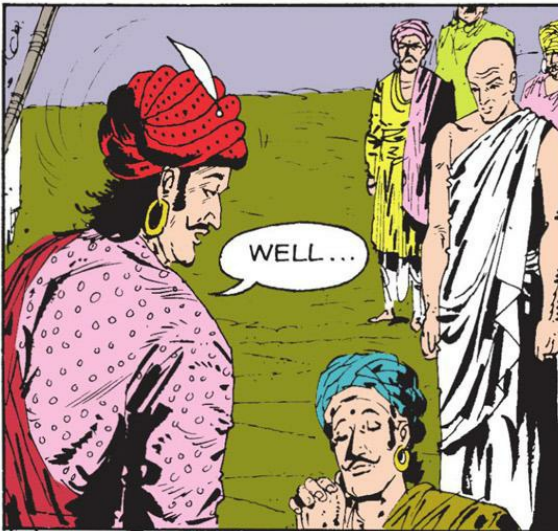
SAHASRAMALLA FELL AT THE KING'S FEET.



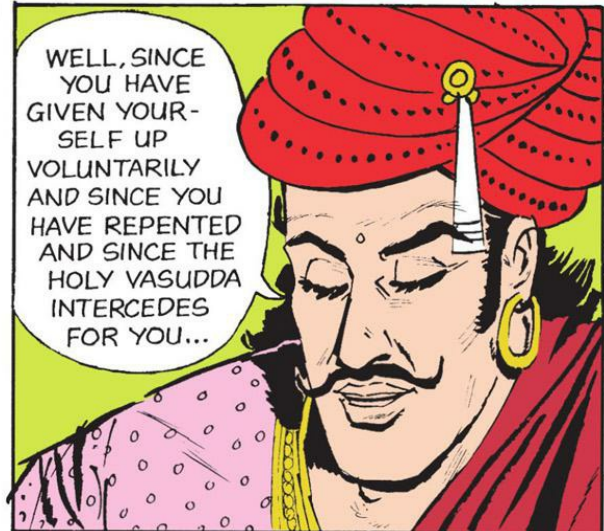
MY MOTHER AND I HAVE BROUGHT BACK ALL THE GOODS I STOLE, TO BE RESTORED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS.



WELL...

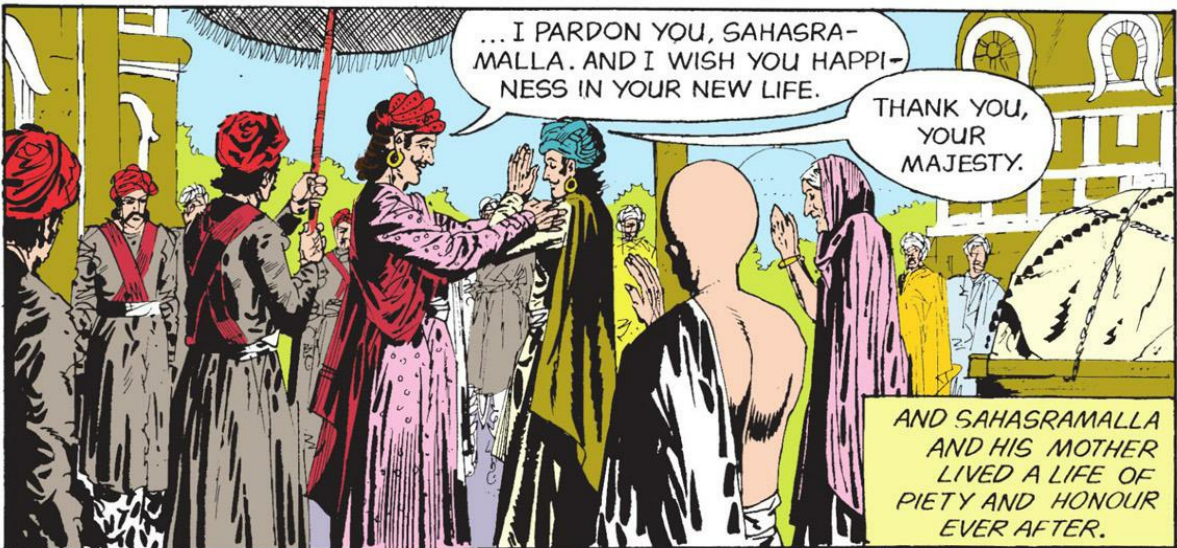


WELL, SINCE YOU HAVE GIVEN YOURSELF UP VOLUNTARILY AND SINCE YOU HAVE REPENTED AND SINCE THE HOLY VASUDDA INTERCEDES FOR YOU...



... I PARDON YOU, SAHASRAMALLA. AND I WISH YOU HAPPINESS IN YOUR NEW LIFE.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.



AND SAHASRAMALLA AND HIS MOTHER LIVED A LIFE OF PIETY AND HONOUR EVER AFTER.



## WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p><b>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY</b>  <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu  Agastya  Andhaka  Aniruddha  Aruni And Uttanka  Ashwini Kumars  Ayyappan  Bahubali  Bhanumati  Bheema And Hanuman  Bheeshma  Chandrabhasa  Dasharatha  Dhruva And Ashtavakra  Draupadi  Drona  Elephanta  Gandhari  Ganesha  Ganesha And The Moon  Ganga  Garuda  Ghatotkacha  Hanuman  Hanuman To The Rescue  Harischandra  Heroes Of Hampi  Indra And Shachi  Indra And Shibi  Indra And Vritra  Jagannatha Of Puri  Jayadratha  Kacha And Devayani  Karna  Karttikeya  Konark  Krishna  Krishna And Jarasandha  Krishna And Narakasura  Krishna And Rukmini  Krishna And Shishupala  Krishna And The False  Vaasudeva  Kubera  Kumbhakarna  Mahabharata  Mahiravana  Nachiketa  Nahusha  Nala Damayanti  Pareekshit  Parashurama  Prabhavati  Pradyumna  Prahlad  Purushottam Dev And  Padmavati  Rama  Ravana Humbled  Saraswati  Sati And Shiva  Savitri  Shiva Parvati  Stories Of Creation  Subhadra  Sudama  Sukanya  Surya  Tales From The  Upanishads  Tales Of Arjuna  Tales Of Balarama  Tales Of Durga  Tales Of Indra  Tales Of Narada</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva  Tales Of Vishnu  Tales Of Yudhishtira  Tapati  Thanjavur  The Churning Of The  Ocean  The Gita  The Golden Mongoose  The King In  A Parrot's Body  The Lord Of Lanka  The Pandava Princes  The Pandavas In Hiding  The Parijata Tree  The Sons Of Rama  The Syamantaka Gem  Tirupati  Tripura  Uloopi  Vaishno Devi  Vali  Vishwamitra  Yayati</p> <p><b>VISIONARIES</b>  <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara  Albert Einstein  Anant Pai  Babasaheb Ambedkar  Basaveshwara  Buddha  Chaitanya Mahaprabhu  Chanakya  Chokha Mela  Dayananda  Deshbandhu  Chittaranjan Das  Eknath  Fa Hien  Ghanshyamdas Birla  Guru Arjan  Guru Gobind Singh  Guru Har Gobind  Guru Nanak  Guru Tegh Bahadur  Hiuen Tsang  J.R.D Tata  Jagadis Chandra Bose  Jamsetji Tata  Jawaharlal Nehru  Jayaprakash Narayan  Jim Corbett  Jnaneshwar  Kabir  Kalidasa  Lal Bahadur Shastri  Lokmanya Tilak  M. 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Ramakrishna  Srinivasa Ramanujan  Subramania Bharati</p>	<p>Swami Chinmayananda  Swami Pranavananda  Tales Of Sai Baba  Tansen  Tulsidas  Vidyasagar  Vivekananda  Zarathushtra</p> <p><b>INDIAN CLASSICS</b>  <i>Enchanting tales from Indian literature</i></p> <p>Ananda Math  Ancestors Of Rama  Devi Choudhurani  Durgesh Nandini  Kadambari  Kannagi  Kapala Kundala  Kumanan  Maarthaanda Varma  Malavika  Manonmani  Prince Jivaka  Raj Singh  Ratnavali  Shakuntala  The Adventures Of  Pratapana  The Elusive Kaka  Udayana  Urvashi  Vasantasena  Vasavadatta  Veer Dhaval</p> <p><b>FABLES AND HUMOUR</b>  <i>Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour</i></p> <p>A Bag Of Gold Coins  Amrapali  Andher Nagari  Angulimala  Bikal The Terrible  <b>BIRBAL STORIES</b>  Birbal The Clever  Birbal The Genius  Birbal The Just  Birbal The Wise  Birbal The Witty  Birbal To The Rescue  The Inimitable Birbal  Chandralalal  Dhola And Maru  Friends And Foes  Gopal And The Cowherd  Gopal The Jester  <b>HITOPADESHA TALES</b>  Choice Of Friends  How Friends Are Parted  Hothal  <b>JATAKA TALES</b>  Battle Of Wits  Bird Stories  Deer Stories  Elephant Stories  Jackal Stories  Monkey Stories  Nandi Vishala  Stories Of Courage  Stories Of Wisdom  Tales Of Misers  The Deadly Feast  The Giant And  The Dwarf  The Hidden Treasure  The Magic Chant</p>	<p>The Mouse Merchant  True Friends  Kanwal And Kehar  Kesari The Flying Thief  King Kusha  Manduka</p> <p><b>PANCHATANTRA TALES</b>  Crows And Owls  How The Jackal Ate  The Elephant  The Brahmin And  The Goat  The Dullard  The Greedy Mother-in-law  The Jackal And  The Wardrum  Raman Of Tenali  Raman The Matchless Wit  Sahasramalla  Sakshi Gopal  Satwant Kaur  Sharan Kaur  Shrenik  Sukhu And Dukhu  Sundari  Tales Of Maryada Rama  The Acrobat  The Adventures  Of Agad Datta  The Adventures Of  Baddu And Chhotu  The Bridegroom's Ring  The Celestial Necklace  The Clever Dancer  The Cowherd Of Alawi  The Fearless Boy  The Fool's Disciples  The Golden Sand  The Green Demon  The Unhappy Tiger  The Learned Pandit  The Lost Prince  The Magic Grove  The Miraculous Conch  The Mystery Of  The Missing Gift  The Pandit And The  Milkmaid  The Pig And The Dog  The Pious Cat  The Priceless Gem  The Prince And  The Magician  The Prophecy  The Queen's Necklace  The Rainbow Prince  The Secret Of The  Talking Bird  The Silent Teacher  The Tiger And The  Woodpecker  The Tiger Eater  Thugsen  Vidyut Chora  Vikramaditya's Throne</p> <p><b>BRAVEHEARTS</b>  <i>Stirring tales of brave men and women of India</i></p> <p>A Nation Awakes  Ahilyabai Holkar  Ajatashatru  Akbar  Amar Singh Rathor  Ashoka  Babur  Bagha Jatin  Bajirao I</p>	<p>Baladitya And  Yashodharma  Balban  Banda Bahadur  Bappa Rawal  Beni Madho And Pir Ali  Bhagat Singh  Bidhi Chand  Bimbisara  Chand Bibi  Chandra Shekhar Azad  Chandragupta Maurya  Chennamma Of Keladi  Dara Shukho And  Aurangzeb  Durgadas  Ellora Caves  Hakka And Bukka  Hari Singh Nalwa  Harsha  Hemu  Humayun  Jahangir  Jallianwala Bagh  Kalpana Chawla  Kochunni  Krishnadeva Raya  Kunwar Singh  Lachit Barphukan  Lalitaditya  Mangal Pande  Noor Jahan  Padmini  Panna And Hadi Rani  Paurava And Alexander  Prithviraj Chauhan  Raja Bhoja  Raja Raja Chola  Rana Kumbha  Rana Pratap  Rana Sanga  Rani Abbakka  Rani Durgavati  Rani Of Jhansi  Ranjit Singh  Rash Bihari Bose  Roopmati  Sambhaji  Samudra Gupta  Sea Route To India  Shah Jahan  Shalivahana  Shantala  Sher Shah  Shivaji  Subhas Chandra Bose  Sultana Razia  Surjya Sen  Tachcholi Othenan  Tales Of Shivaji  Tanaji  Tenzing Norgay  The Historic City Of Delhi  The Rani Of Kittur  Tipu Sultan  Veer Hammir  Veer Savarkar  Velu Thampi  Vikramaditya</p> <p><b>CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS</b>  <i>(New Category)  The best of modern Indian literature</i></p> <p>The Blue Umbrella</p>
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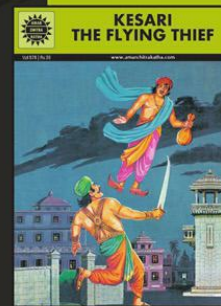
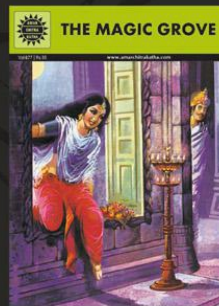
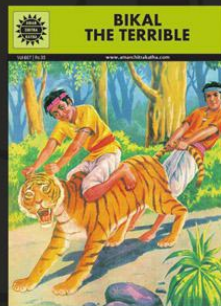
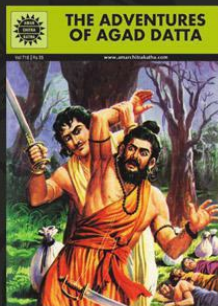


## SAHASRAMALLA

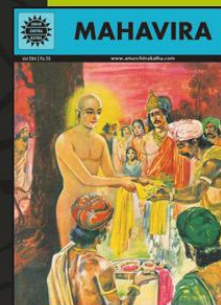
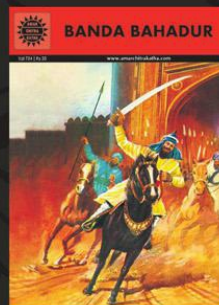
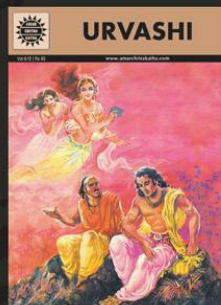
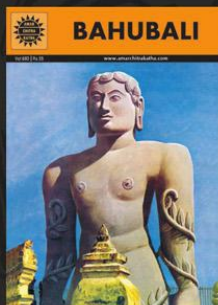
Sahasramalla steals from everyone. But when he tricks the King himself, Sahasramalla realises that there is no longer anyone left to rob and wonders what to do next. Near by, a monk named Vasudda is speaking. Vasudda's words make Sahasramalla realise how many people he has cheated and betrayed.

Taken from the Vardhamana-desana, a Jain classic, the story of Sahasramalla is told with compassion. Even a thief is given the option to repent and make up for his crimes.

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